



start

DETAILS, DETAILS, DETAILS

(What connection do you think the following illustration has with the Bible texts on the other page?)

It was 1911, and explorers were attempting to travel to the uttermost parts of the world. Two teams set out to be the first in history to journey to the South Pole (Antarctica). The glaring dissimilarity between the two teams was their approach and preparation for the journey, which in the end made all the difference in the world.

One team was led by Roald Amundsen, who rigorously studied the travel methods of the Eskimos and others who traveled in similar climates. After careful study and reflection he determined that the best way to reach the South Pole was to travel by dogsled. Next he picked a team of skilled skiers and set reasonable goals for each day, making sure the dogs would have plenty of food and rest. His careful planning enabled the team to reach their goal without any major disasters. In fact, the only incident that his team encountered was an infected tooth that had to be extracted.

Unfortunately, the other team, headed up by Robert Falcon Scott, had a completely different experience. Scott, a British naval officer who had led a previous Antarctic expedition, did not thoughtfully plan out his expedition, as is displayed by his choice to use motorized sledges and ponies for the journey. Problems started soon after the expedition began. The motorized vehicles failed after five days, and the ponies, who had never experienced such bitter cold, had to be killed at the base of the Transantarctic Mountains. After the ponies were gone, Scott's team had to drag the heavy sledges around and were sapped of their energy.

To make matters worse, their clothes were not appropriate for the weather, causing many team members to suffer from frostbite. In addition, the team became blinded by the snow because of inadequate goggles and eye protection. If that weren't enough drama, the food and water ran low as a result of Scott's poor planning and last-minute addition of a fifth person to the team. Amazingly, Scott's team made it to the South Pole alive, but in bad shape. And there, waiting for them, was the Norwegian flag. Amundsen, because of his thoughtful attention to the details, had accomplished his goal and reached the destination one month sooner than his counterpart.

It pays to pay careful attention to the details that will help us accomplish our goals.



Key Text: Choose one of the texts from Wednesday's portion of the lesson. Write it here and memorize it this week.

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Sunday HERE'S WHAT I THINK

- >> The mission statement of a fictional spaceship goes like this: "These are the voyages of the starship *Enterprise*. Her continuing mission is to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no one has gone before."
- >> If you were to personally use the structure of that statement to describe your purpose in life, what would you change, and how would it read?
- >> Keeping the basic structure and themes of the statement above, how would a mission statement for your church (or your dream church) read? Try to make it 30 words or less like the one above.
- >> Log on to www.guidemagazine.org/rtf to post your responses. Be upfront and honest. Say what you think.

1

Monday WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO SAY?

Different people, different opinions. Some of the quotations below represent the views of true kingdom citizens; others may not. Can you tell the difference? How do these statements compare with what God is saying in His Word? After reviewing the texts in the God Says . . . portion of the lesson, write a statement that captures your belief. Be prepared to quote yourself at Sabbath School.

- >> "Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at something that doesn't really matter."—*New Tribes Missionary (unknown), Eternal Perspectives Newsletter, Fall 2003, p. 15.*
- >> "No steam or gas drives anything until it is confined. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined."—*Harry Emerson Fosdick, 20th-century U.S. American clergyman.*
- >> "I have found my destiny. I must take the gospel to the people of the East End [of London]."—*William Booth, 19th-century English Methodist minister, founder of the Salvation Army.*
- >> "If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."—*Martin Luther King, Jr., 20th-century African-American pastor, Nobel Peace Prize winner.*
- >> "First build a proper goal. That proper goal will make it easy, almost automatic, to build a proper you."—*Goethe, 18th-19th-century German poet, playwright, thinker.*
- >> "No one can be making much of his life who has not a very definite conception of what he is living for."—*Henry Drummond, 19th-century Scottish evangelist, minister, writer, professor of theology.*
- >> "If you chase two rabbits, both will escape." —*Unknown.*

Write your own quotation.
What I say is . . .

>>

3

Tuesday
SO WHAT?

- >> Most people are eventually forced into focusing their life on the things that matter most as a result of serious problems arising, such as cancer or financial difficulties. Trial by fire is one approach to finding a focus and purpose; however, it might not be the best way to spend your time on earth. The story of Blind Bart is a great example of someone straining out anything that gets in the way of their goal, and leaping out to obtain it. In **Mark 10** a blind man named Bartimaeus is sitting by the road when he hears that Jesus is passing by. He cries out to Jesus, but he gets shushed by the crowd. Determined not to let the opportunity pass, he cries out louder, and Jesus stops and calls him to come. The blind man sheds his cloak, leaps into the air, and makes his way to Jesus. Amazing. Nothing got in the way of his goal. His reward—Jesus healed him and taught each of us a life lesson about focusing on what we want out of life.
- >> Why wait until you're desperate and you have no other options? Why not live by principle today? Why not be driven by your mission, making every decision based upon your values? Why not live each day for the things you would be willing to die for? It's as simple as showing compassion for outsiders who can't get in, loving your neighbor with tangible grace, or empowering missionaries to spread the gospel in India by working a few hours after school. Whatever your mission is, be the kind of person who is guided by a true north. Take the challenge of navigating the waters of your teen years with a clear sense of who you are and what you are destined to do.

5

Thursday
WHAT DOES THIS
HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

- >> As bright and complicated as Paul could be, he kept his mission simple: "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (**Colossians 2:2, 3, NIV**).
- >> As we grow older, our mission is shaped by new ideas and new experiences. It seems clear when we read the Gospels that Jesus calls His followers to do incredible things to further the kingdom. But what is also true is that we are not alone. Jesus is right behind us, helping us become everything He has intended us to be.
- >> Jesus believes in you and can empower you to make bold choices for Him. More than anything else, He wants you, as a child in His kingdom, to experience the joy that comes from being free to be and do exactly what God has intended for your life. What if you were to try it out, keep it simple, and live next week by a mission that you write? The journey isn't about being perfect; it's about beginning to live on purpose.

4

Wednesday
GOD SAYS . . .

- >> **Proverbs 21:21 (NIV)**
"He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor."
- >> **Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)**
"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."
- >> **Acts 20:22-24 (NIV)**
"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."
- >> **Romans 8:18, 19 (NIV)**
"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed."
- >> **Philippians 2:1, 2 (NIV)**
"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose."
- >> **Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)**
"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
- >> **Colossians 2:2, 3 (NIV)**
"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
- >> (More: 2 Timothy 1:8-12; Hebrews 6:9-12.)

6

Friday
HOW DOES IT WORK?

- >> Write yourself a mission statement so that you can get busy living it!
- A personal mission statement addresses three questions:
1. What is my life about?
 2. What do I stand for?
 3. What action am I taking to live what my life is about and what I stand for?

My mission statement: _____

